

REMARKS

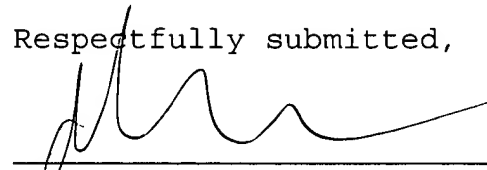
Claims 1-3, 6-8 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as anticipated by Chanteau (International Pub. No. WO 97/49240) in view of Levan (U.S. Patent No. 5,956,346). Claims 12-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as anticipated by Levan. Claims 3-4 and 8-9 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-2, 5-7 and 10-13 are pending.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner indication that claims 4-5 and 9-10 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph. Applicant submits that claims 1, 6 and 12-13 have been amended to substantially include all the limitations of claims 4-5 and 9-10. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-2, 5-7 and 10-13, as amended, are patentable.

The applicants have made a sincere attempt to advance the prosecution of this application by reducing the issues for consideration and specifically delineating the zone of patentability. The applicants submit that the claims, as they now stand, fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103. In view of the foregoing amendments and

remarks, favorable reconsideration and early passage to
issue of the present application are respectfully
solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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On

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By

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